

Restore the Canopy, Plant a Tree!

The Metropolitan Reclamation District (MWRD) launched a program in 2016 that will aid in managing stormwater and educating communities and schools on the value of the tree canopy that has been depleted over the last century. The “Restore the Canopy, Plant a Tree” initiative empowers the residents of Cook County with an opportunity to restore our region’s tree canopy and reduce the chances of future flooding.

The MWRD is partnering with municipalities, schools, local agencies, community groups and other organizations interested in planting 18-inch oak saplings throughout the county.

The free saplings are available in individual pots or in bulk bags of 100 bare root saplings. Planting and care instructions, along with additional information regarding the benefits of trees, will be provided with each delivery. With advance notice, the saplings can be picked up at MWRD facilities or delivered.

The initiative can be especially useful to area schools, as the program offers teachers and students the opportunity to restore our region's depleted tree canopy through an educational experience that extends beyond the classroom. The saplings can be planted on school grounds or at students' homes as a way to educate students on how they can protect their environment and meet the MWRD's goals in stormwater management.

Pickup Locations

The MWRD distributes free trees every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon beginning May 4, 2016, at the following water reclamation plants:

- Calumet (400 E. 130th St., Chicago)
- Egan (550 S. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg)
- Hanover Park (1220 Sycamore Ave., Hanover Park)
- Kirie (701 West Oakton St., Des Plaines)
- O'Brien (3500 Howard St., Skokie)
- Stickney (6001 W. Pershing Rd., Cicero)

Special Event: The MWRD will also distribute free trees during public tours and open houses on Saturday, May 21, 2016, from 9 am to noon at the Calumet, Egan, Kirie, Hanover Park, O'Brien and Stickney plants. The City of Berwyn reminds residents to make sure they plant their trees on private property and not the parkway. The City handles all parkway tree plantings due to infrastructure below the ground as well as potential tree height issues above (electrical wires, etc).

For questions concerning this program, please call Kathy Ecklund at 312-751-7927